

inserting a mixing agitator within said mixing vessel so as to communicate with said vessel interior, said agitator comprised of a tubular rod having an agitator disk fixed on one end thereof and having a second, open end defining a mouth, said mouth being located axially above said spout of said vessel, said agitator being axially displaceable such that said agitator disk can mix both of said bone cement components together;

placing a container in said mouth of said tubular rod, said container having an interior space for receiving a glass ampoule and a threadable cap for pushing downwards on said ampoule, said interior space including a means for breaking said ampoule when said cap pushes on said ampoule thereby allowing said container to feed liquid into said vessel; and

axially displacing said agitator so as to mix said liquid and powder components under vacuum, without allowing harmful emissions to escape said mixing vessel.

Please add new claims 46-49 as follows.

~~11646~~ (New) An apparatus for mixing liquid and powder bone components for preparation of bone cement, comprising:

a mixing vessel having an interior space defined by an outer wall having one end with a sealable opening, and an opposite end with an axially displaceable wall;

a vacuum source connected to the interior space of said mixing vessel for maintaining the interior space under vacuum;

an agitator for mixing the liquid and powder bone cement components within the interior space of said mixing vessel, said agitator including an agitator disk disposed within the interior space and a tubular rod connected to said agitator disk and having an open end thereof extending through said sealable opening to the exterior of said mixing vessel, said agitator disk and said tubular rod are axially displaceable relative to said mixing vessel; and

a feed arrangement for feeding the liquid or powder bone cement component into the interior space of said mixing vessel, said feed arrangement includes a container that contains the liquid or powder bone cement component within an interior thereof, and said container includes an open end that is engageable with said open end of said tubular rod for feeding the liquid or powder bone cement component through the tubular rod into the interior space of said

mixing vessel, and said container includes an aperture that places the interior of said container in communication with atmosphere.

*17* ~~47~~. (New) The apparatus according to claim ~~46~~, wherein the interior of said container contains an ampoule holding the liquid bone cement component.

*18* ~~48~~. (New) The apparatus according to claim ~~47~~, further comprising a cap secured to an end of said container opposite said open end thereof, said cap is engageable with said ampoule and is displaceable relative to said container for breaking said ampoule to release the liquid bone cement component.

*19* ~~49~~. (New) The apparatus according to claim ~~48~~, wherein said aperture is provided in said cap.